

Like most consumers, I am opposed to implementation of technology that would prevent "time-shifting" (taping) of broadcast programming.

As an author and computer programmer, I recognize the importance of copyright protection, as well as the potential benefits of "technology solutions" to prevent copyright infringement.

However, this proposal would substantially impair and restrict consumers' legal rights under current copyright law, which permits recording of broadcast programming for the purpose of "time-shifting."

I have recently decided to change careers to become a teacher, and like most teachers, my hours require an early bed time, so I can only watch most "prime time" television programs by recording them and then watching them later in the week. As an honest consumer and as a licensed attorney, I am scrupulous in honoring copyright laws and objecting to infringements when I see them.

This proposal would, as a practical effect, substantially impair current public rights to use copyrighted works, and would also punish the honest while creating no obstacle to the dishonest. That is, honest consumers would be impaired from current "fair uses" while dishonest persons will not be impaired in any way from recording and redistributing copyrighted works.

This proposal is absurd, and should be abandoned. If the broadcast industry wants to so drastically alter copyright law and "fair use," they should seek changes in Congress, not through FCC rule-making.